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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Pat Campbell [Signature]
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: 9614/OL414

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hiroshi IIZUKA et al.

Serial No.: 09/908,993

Confirmation No.: 6849

Art Unit: 1724

Filed: July 19, 2001

Examiner: Ivars C. Cintins

For: **WATER SOFTENING DEVICE**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

No fee is believed due with this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if the Commissioner determines that any fee is due, he is authorized to

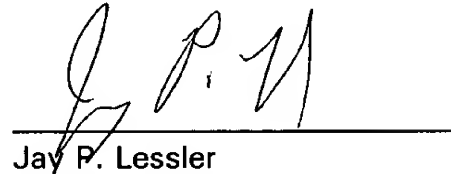
charge any fees up to \$2,000.00 required in connection with this Information

Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 30, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. Lessler", is written over a horizontal line.

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